

# CyberAnt

WARNING  
THE COVER IS UPSIDE DOWN  
PLEASE TURN IT AROUND

## ARE YOU READY FOR THE WAR

SEPTEMBER & DECEMBER 2005

NO.



### A CPE STUDENT IN GERMANY ONLINE WITH CYBERANT HARD EARNED LESSONS IN THE US



## WHAT'S UP AT CPE?

### QUO VADIS COMPUTER ENGINEERS

AN OUTSTANDING STUDENTS  
SECRET OF EXCELLENCE REVEALED



## Quo Vadis, Computer Engineers?

by Phitchayaphong Tantikul

The journey continues... but "quo vadis" or where are you headed? Do you know where you're going to?

What to do after graduation? Many of you especially freshmen who don't know about what is computer engineering, what are you going to do after you graduate? What career do you want to land on? Even if I'm just a student like you, I write this article to tell you something about the career in this field.

Computer Engineering Department will teach you anything that covers computer related field. Some of you may think it's so boring because they think they already know what they want to do or what they like. They may like computer networking, computer programming, electronics or digital related, etc.

I suggest you find out what you really need and want. WHO ARE YOU? This is just a simple question but hard to find the answer. And only you can find it. I think that if one can do everything that he wants, he will do his best and importantly he will love that and he will love himself.

Let me advise you a few things that I think may be helpful to you:

1. Try to notice everything that happens in your daily life. Find what you like, what you love, or what is the thing that makes you feel good when you do it.
2. Open your mind. This world is not as small as the tiny world some people think. You need to open your mind, try something that you have never done before
3. Look at the past. In your previous job or activity which one made you feel good? What is the reason you feel that way? Could you apply it in your life?

4. Ask your close friends. This helps you a little. No one knows yourself but YOU.

After you discover that it's your life, it's your destiny to do this thing and this thing is in computer-related field. I would tell you that now you got a goal. How to walk towards that goal? It depends on you, too. No one can teach any student to be Einstein. It's on himself. I tell you don't just depend on teaching. You need to go extra mile. You need to do learn by yourself. IT' JUST YOUR BRAIN. And it's your future, anyway. At the end of your 4th year here, you'll get a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering. What's going to be next?

There are two main choices for you now: study a master's degree or get a job.

If you choose the first, you have to continue thinking about:

- Which master's degree you want? It may still be computer engineering degree or another field. It's your choice.
- Where will you study? Study abroad, continue studying in the same university or anywhere else.

But if you will be looking for a job, you have to collect as much information as you can from many companies as possible. Why do you have to do this? When you get a job, you can change it anytime you want, can't you? ... This is a wrong idea!!! In many application forms that I've seen, there is a field "Reason for Leaving" that you have to write. What would you write? ... "I was just bored"? "Nothing interesting"? or "Not suited for me"? These will give you a bad impression about yourself. I suggest that you would select the best company that you want most (and you can get their job) and work for years. It will help your job grow, your résumé impressive and your salary increase.

I hope you have found yourself, and get a good job. I'd like to end my article by quoting the great US President Abraham Lincoln who said, "A goal properly set is halfway reached."

### 10 Fastest Growing Occupations for College Grads

	2002	2012	Percent Change
Network systems and data communications analysts	186	292	57
Physician assistants	63	94	49
Medical records and health information technicians	147	216	47
Computer software engineers, applications	394	573	46
Computer software engineers, systems software	281	409	46
Physical therapist assistants	50	73	46
Fitness trainers and aerobics instructors	183	264	45
Database administrators	110	159	44
Veterinary technologists and technicians	53	76	44
Dental hygienists	148	212	43

### Occupations with the Most New Jobs: Bachelor's Degrees

	2002	2012	Change
Elementary school teachers, except special education	1,467	1,690	223
Accountants and auditors	1,055	1,261	205
Computer systems analysts	468	653	184
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	988	1,167	180
Computer software engineers, applications	394	573	179
Special education teachers	433	563	130
Computer software engineers, systems software	281	409	128
Network systems and data communications analysts	186	292	106
Network and computer systems administrators	251	345	94
Computer programmers	499	571	73

SOURCE: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics

by Arto

It's coming up to you soon! But don't worry, it's not the World War III that Nostradamus has been expecting for about four hundred years; nor is it the new terrorist attack by the Al Qaeda or by Usama bin Laden. But it is rather concerned with something more exciting and it is something you can't easily hide from it. Yes, you are about to enter to the war of the future!

This may sound confusing, hey! Are we going to have a galaxy war at Cosmic Belt like between Jedi Knight and the Sith Lord, one may ask. Well, it's not that far, far away future that we mention about and there are no opponents in this war who will fight against you. The only enemy is, indeed, yourself!

Have you practiced your skills enough to be able to deal with the job in your interested field? Have you done your researches to find the best colleges or institutes that will realize your plan?

Are you well prepared for your future in either for your job or your higher education? Or, at least, have you ever discovered yourself and decided where you are going to go and what you are going to do after the graduation at all?

"Oh Enough!" I heard one said, yes, everyone would agree so. However, it is always be there even if you don't want to think of it. Sound cruel but absolutely true.

## Let's Move!

Now, let's get to the point! No matter how much you are aware of this, like going to the war, you need to be prepared! So today, you are about to be trained, sarge! As we are all computer engineering students, starting with a simple question, what is our field of interest in computer engineering? Everyone may have different reasons in their minds in joining this faculty but what can be assumed to be identical is his/her goals to get the most from computer engineering. So after two or more years in the campus one should gain a clearer vision of his/her destination and find himself/herself a specialized field.

It is uncommon that your mind might go blank when thinking of it if you are yet freshmen. Do you have any idea on how many fields are available in CPE? No problem, here are some of the possible fields in CPE are Networking, Computer graphics, Animation and vision, Artificial Intelligence and natural language processing, Embedded Systems, VLSI and microchip design, Computer Architecture and grid Technology, Circuit Design and Control System, Pervasive Computing and Information Networking, Software Architecture and Agent-based Computing and etc.

Please ask Doctor Goog if you have any questions about the definition of these categories. Don't you know him? He's always there! [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

However, to summarize, the course curriculum for bachelor's degree here in our department, CPE, will enable us to have competency in the area of software, hardware and networking.

"So what?" If you are still trying to decide what job to pursue after graduation, you must first determine what kind of job position you are going to apply for. Usually those job positions are based on some certain skills. We are not asking you to be specialists or to have any kind of mastery; before we do some debate here you have some good opinions from a senior's point of view which will explore the importance of this issue a little more.

Find out more!

Go ahead! This is just an introduction, due to the limitation of space and time (sound like physics?) it is not possible for me to put all you might need here. However, you could find the information from a number of different resources at <http://cpe.kmutt.ac.th/cyberant/collect.html>

## Are you ready for the war?

Now, you may want to look at the job listing available for us! So what are you waiting for? Check it out! It comes together with brief explanations for each job.

<http://www.princetonreview.com/college/research/majors/careers.asp?majorID=70>

Computer Engineering is a difficult major but it's a major that's in demand. Software engineering companies, telecommunication firms, designers of digital hardware, and many other business enterprises hire Computer Engineering graduates right from the university and pay them well.

If you are thinking of joining master's degree program or even higher, it is logically the same in the way you question yourself. The only difference is the range of answer not limited to only particular field in CPE. For example, you may have interest in master's degree program related to finance then it is easier for you to use the search engine like Google to find your desired one such as the financial engineering program at University Of California, Berkeley if you are interested in going abroad. Then, you can find out easily by yourself the requirements of joining such program.

Computer Engineering also makes great preparation for medical school, business school, and law school (particularly if you want to specialize in patent law).

However, for many reasons, continuing graduate school program abroad can be cumbersome. In general it comes together with a lot of burdens such as prices that we can hardly afford. Nowadays you can obtain your degree by distance learning programs. It becomes more popular since the internet can deliver students the virtual classroom and number of interactive learning media.

One most valuable resource is from the experienced. It is quick and easy to ask and consult with the one you trust. There are many solutions if you qualify for all conditions but suffering from the great costs of registration fees. From the author's point of view from one year experience in Japan, there are many local scholarships available for foreigner who wants to study there. So one possibility is to go there and enter some language schools by your own effort, and then look for the scholarship that best fits you without having to challenge the scholarships granted in your homeland.

However, you do this with your own risk. It's more sensitive when you are going to support yourself at the first place where you have to compete for the prize you may not get. And if you are thinking of 'aru-bai-to' or to do part-time job to aid your finance you may need a work permit if it is stated so in the law of that country where it might vary from place to place.

## Go on sarge!

Once you've identified a group of careers that fit your interests, you'll want to learn more about them. There are several different ways to further explore careers that you're thinking about trying in the future. For example, job shadowing is when you spend a day (or part of a day) at work with someone in a career that interests you. Or you may like community service or volunteer work. It can provide great opportunities to learn about different careers. Summer jobs and internships are ideal ways to explore different industries while earning money.

Remember, I say this to all of you, even freshmen can do internship, so why waste your time on the summer bed! Be alert!

## See you at the top!

The definition of success may vary differently from one to another but, do remember, to have tried all that you can with all your heart to whatever you are doing is the happiness of a day. And, maybe, someday this war could be a lot of fun to you! Drive yourself as high as you want to!

Welcome to the real world! Enjoy your life!

WHAT'S A DEGREE WORTH?	AVERAGE STARTING SALARY	CHANGE FROM YR. BEFORE
Computer engineering	\$53,117	+0.7%
Chemical engineering	\$52,563	+2.5%
Electrical engineering	\$49,926	-1.4%
Mechanical engineering	\$49,008	+2.0%
Computer science	\$48,656	+8.9%
Industrial/manuf. engineering	\$48,283	+0.4%
Information sciences	\$42,108	+2.6%
Accounting	\$42,045	+0.1%
Construction science	\$41,232	-3.7%
Mngmt info systems/ Biz data processing	\$41,103	+1.3%
Civil engineering	\$41,046	-1.2%
Economics/Finance	\$40,596	+0.5%
Logistics/ Materials mgmt.	\$40,404	+3.5%
Business admin.	\$37,368	+2.0%
Nursing	\$37,253	-4.3%
Marketing	\$36,071	+1.0%
Liberal arts majors*	\$30,153	+3.5%
Elementary teacher education	\$27,317	-6.8%
Psychology	\$25,032	-8.0%

\*as a group.  
Source: NAACI Winter 2004 Salary Survey

## Search and Destroy!

Know where to go now?  
Well, well, don't be too hasty!  
See what we've got for you!  
It's the trend! Read this or get out of the track!

Three Industries Poised For Job Growth in 2006  
By Jared Flesher (<http://www.careerjournal.com/>)

He claimed that recruiters and economists say healthcare, biosciences or technology industries fields will lead the nation in new-job creation in 2006 where U.S. job-growth projections for 2006 from research firm Moody's Economy.com is given that computer-systems-design and related service companies: 81,000, up 6.8% ! There's a lot more interesting details in website you should take a look !

Ten Hottest Careers for College Graduates (<http://www.collegeboard.com/>)

Experts Predict Where the Jobs Will Be in 2012

Wondering where the jobs will be in the future? US Government economists estimated which occupations would grow fastest between 2002 and 2012. They also predicted which occupations would have the most new jobs.

The Technology Skills Employers Value Most

By Thomas Hoffman From Computerworld ( <http://www.careerjournal.com/> )

"Whether you're looking for a job or looking to fill one, expect hiring to heat up this year, driven by small but consistent gains in IT budgets. And if you're a job seeker with the right skills, 2006 could be your big year".

## Editorial

### Getting Ready for the Real World Challenges

In a highly competitive job market, only "the trained man wins".

In this issue, you will notice that most topics deal on how we, computer engineers, can be successful in our chosen field. This theme was chosen because there are many CPE students who are still uncertain of what job they will land on someday. It is important to decide as early as possible on what we would like to specialize or master based on our interests so we can prepare ourselves for the war. You may read our cover story, "Are you ready for the war?" by Arto with P'Dear's "Quo Vadis, Computer Engineers?".

Our preparation for a good future has started since we were small. However, what the employers want to see are our credentials on how we performed in college and, of course, our skills and character. They want to see what we have done in the past particularly in our university life. Being active in university and department worthwhile organizations and activities can make our resume more attractive for employers. This will give them an impression that we can easily mingle with people and have practiced the ability to achieve certain goals for a team. The article of P'Phond will give you insights on how to achieve academic excellence while we don't have to detach ourselves from extracurricular activities that will help us develop to become a team-player or be on top in a company someday. Writing an article, for example, requires time to research and to think logically so perseverance and creativity are needed here. There will be some mistakes in your article that may need revision so you will be advised to rewrite it. The worst is, if your article does not conform to the standards so your work will be junked and you have to think of a better writing style or a more interesting topic to write about. This is not only a humbling experience but harnessing your skills as well. Be patient and humble enough to accept your mistakes. Claude Bernard says, "It is what we think we know already that often prevents us from learning". In the real world, not all our work will be appreciated so this is a fact in life we must learn. Therefore, being open-minded and joining campus activities help us to develop our skills and to grow in our character to prepare us for the real world challenges.

If you wish to further your studies abroad not only to make your credentials more attractive but to improve your knowledge and skills in your chosen field as well as your language skills, you may avail of the 2+2 Program of our department. (That is, 2 Years at KMUTT, 2 Years at Missouri, University, USA). If you decide to go to Missouri University, USA, after two year here at KMUTT, you should read P'Noon's article. You may also read P'Tip-Top's article written from Bremen University, Germany. They don't only share their memorable and funny experiences but they give us valuable pieces of advice on how to survive in universities abroad.

To sum up the points of various writers in this issue, in order for us to be successful in our chosen field, first we must know ourselves. Then we should set our goals. "Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into visible" (Anthony Robbins). After setting our goals, we must work hard and go extra miles to achieve them even taking the risks so we must develop our character. We should be prepared for the requirements, challenges and surprises in the real world of job. The Dalai-Lama puts it in his Instructions of Life, "Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk".

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## A Night to Remember

by Nan

"Count off 1,2,3...", Mr. Woody urged everyone during the warm-up game. All of us should have presence of mind otherwise.....ooopppss! "Penalty! Walk like Chicken Little, render a song or anything you can do to entertain!!!" It was Christmas Eve and we were on the 8th Floor of CB4 partying while other students were busy pouring all their energy on their books as it was midterm examination period.

How did all this come to reality? During the first week of the midterm exam when Christmas was approaching, I and my friends thought of a party to break the monotony of rigid reading and examination. Then we met Ms. Eunice, our ever approachable International Program Coordinator (during my birthday) and we asked her, "Don't we have a Christmas Party?" Then she said, "Let's see what we can do as you have your exams..." "But we need a break, anyway," we insisted.

The following day, we were so glad Ms. Eunice finally posted an announcement that Santa Claus is coming to the 8th Floor. So we were so excited then.

Because it was our idea to hold a party, we helped Ms. Eunice in every step of the way. Buying stuffs we needed for the party, decorating the hall, and even preparing the food. It was fun to do everything with friends, anyway.

Asked what did I enjoy most in the party? Of course, the Christmas carols. The carolers in their choir gowns beautifully sang Christmas songs I usually hear at the malls and English FM stations. I couldn't believe my ears listening for the first time to real blended

music that Christmas Eve of December 24th.

Although the time was short, I and my friends had a great time, anyway. We had to finish quickly our dinner, sponsored by our very supportive department, so we could continue with the games. We joined the games such as Trip to Jerusalem and Newspaper Dance and won some prizes. CPE Department also supported us with the prizes. Well, it was not only the prize that made us happy but our participation itself. It's fun falling from the chair when somebody would grab the chair so he/she won't be out of the game. Falling on the floor was part of the game. (Hahaha!!!) The Newspaper Dance was more difficult but for lovers, it was a great chance for holding each other tight (without malice) for the sake of staying in the game.

The exchange gift was a lot of fun, too. We never knew who would get our gift and whose gift would we get. My Emcee partner, Gap, who is a very good Emcee (in English huh!!!), facilitated the drawing of gift numbers. (By the way, the program was conducted in English all through out including the games.)

How we wished to stay for the karaoke but Ms. Eunice reminded us that we could stay until 12:00 midnight only and it was half past twelve then so we had to call it a night. Anyway, she promised that next year, the party should start earlier so we can have more activities. And we had to go back home for another day of reading. Hmmm!!! It pays to take a break some time so as not to overload our head with too much seriousness. We need to relax amid our pressures, don't we?

Short as it was, even if Santa Claus never truly appeared at the party, it was really a night to remember in our university life.

## Hard earned lessons I learned in the US



Noon is 2nd from the right. (In yellow)

by Kullanuch Saelow (Noon)

When I first transferred to University of Missouri-Columbia in the United States with CPE Department of KMUTT's 2+2 Program, I was not at all confident. During my first week there, I learned to find an apartment, open a bank account, open utilities account (water, gas, telephone, electricity, and internet), and contact my department advisor. Unlike studying at KMUTT, where all courses for students during each semester are planned by the department and students simply have to follow, each student has to select his/her own courses for each semester by making an appointment with his/her advisor. So my first lesson in US was "I need to grow up". I had to become independent and make decisions by myself; I was all I got in US. Of course, I had friends (there were five of us who went there together) and there is a Thai student association at the University that would often lend a helping hand, but unlike living in Thailand, when it comes to decision making, everyone is on his/her own.

My second lesson was actually the most difficult for me because, like most Thai people, I was taught to always be polite and soft spoken. Once in a while during some classes, students have to form a group and work on a project for duration of time. So each group has to, from time to time, report its progress. It was often done in the large auditorium and there were no microphones. I usually was told to speak louder and to maintain "eye-contact". The reason I could not speak out loud was because I was worried about my accent. I was also scared that I would say something wrong or I felt that my project was inferior to others. My first advice to everyone is to just forget about minor thing like accent. Show them your confidence and charm. Second, you have to be proud of what you have done first before you can really impress anyone with it.

My third and most important lesson is that I need to have work experience. In the US, university students mostly get little or no support from their parents. They have to work to earn for their living and tutorial fees. So they would have work experience already before they graduate. When applying for a job in the US, the companies would ask about "your work experience or your internship". Most Asian students find searching for a job in the US difficult because they have no work experience to impress the companies. So "find a part-time job"! Be prepared if anyone plans to transfer to the US and would love to work out there. The ideal part time jobs would be working as assistants in the department's computer labs or help some professors with their projects. Keep both your eyes and ears wide open for any opportunities that would come along.

In conclusion, after spending two and a half years in the US, I learned to become tougher, independent, alert, confident and proud with my profession. I would say that transferring to the US is a challenge risking.



## Loy Kra Tong's Day at KMUTT

by Sai

On November 16, 2005, there was a big celebration for Loy Kra Tong Day at KMUTT. Students from each department had their own booth for selling things or playing games. A lot of people around this area came to join Loy Kra Tong Festival at KMUTT. There was a huge crowd that night. Even if it rained twice during the festival, there was lots of fun especially at CPE's booth where we had a game called "Worm Racing". To play the game, one needed to choose whatever number that he liked then we put worms on the track. And if the number which the racer chose is the same as the number which the first worm got to victory point, he would be the winner. And the winner would get good prizes from us. What was good about our CPE booth was that, everyone who played the game with us got a prize from us even though he or she didn't win.

## A CPE Student in Germany On-Line with CyberAnt



TipTop is 1st from the right. (In green)

by Paisid Chiemchanya (TipTop)

Hallo, wie geht es dir? (Hello, how are you?)

I am a student in the International Student Exchange Program established by KMUTT and University of Bremen, Germany. I am here to participate in Digital-Media Master's Program for one semester. So I'll be studying here from October, 2005-March, 2006. I hope you will enjoy reading my article as CyberAnt Magazine Editor requested me to email an article to him for publication.

During my group's first week here in Germany, I was sitting on my desk next to the window in my guesthouse thinking about my first day being here. I was impressed by German people. They helped us manage our student registration, immigration, insurance and VISA extension. By the way, there are seven of us here - Nu, Boy, Aoo, Yae, Bank, Pow and myself so it's quite a bunch of friends. (The more the merrier!)

I'll go to the university today because the 3D music design will start at 10.15AM. In Germany, I've encountered with some common German's speeches such as "See you there at 9.18" or "Sorry I'll be late for 6 minutes". They are very punctual. If you are late for 15 minutes,

the one who got an appointment with you might already be gone. Today I will take responsibility for a presentation of my research area. I am very excited with the learning system here. Most of the courses are project-based so everyone who is attending the course will have a chance to express his ideas independently. All members of the class can state their opinion even though those notions are almost different from the teacher's point of view. For the 3D music course that I am taking here, students attending the course have their own research area. The research area covers the entire content of the course. We spend almost all of the class time discussing across each research areas. No examination! Your grade will be determined by your term project. Even for more theoretical courses, oral examination is used for grading instead of paper-based. Moreover, since every course is free of charge, students can attend any course that they want without registration required. At the end of each semester, students will register for credits in the courses they want to be graded. Germans' attitude on studying is that they focus on knowledge and skills learned from class rather than expecting good grades.

I'm sitting on my desk searching for the weather information. Today, the temperature is 20°C, no rain and no snow. In Germany, the lowest temperature is down to around -20°C. EXTREMELY COLD!!! I am thinking how I can survive with that temperature. I think I am very lucky for being here. I got huge amount of experience on study and living abroad. I got new friends from many countries and I learned so much about cultural differences. I will not ask myself again what is my aim for being here. This is such a very worthwhile time for me.

Tschuess! (Bye!)

## A caution for latest trends' fanatics



by Supachot Lorwattanakul (Gap)

The semester is about to end. The endless homework and projects seem to be tough and required much time and attention. This time is the last flight out for the semester, so don't forget to concentrate on studying and preparing yourself for the final examination. Anyway, the weather is quite cool. Also take care of yourself and don't be too serious. Take a break and enjoy this CyberAnt issue!!!

I had a chance to talk with a freshman recently on the MSN after working hard for the project for a week. After ordinary greeting, he said that he would like to buy a new mobile phone. I asked him if his old one is out of order. He said that his old one still works. All he wants is just the brand new one. I searched for the website to find out the model of mobile phone which he wants. I found out that the mobile phone he's crazy about has a lot of good features and specifications. It has TFT-LCD 16 million color display, 64-polyphonic ring tone, 90 Megabytes internal memory, Mobile TV broadcast reception, 2 million pixel build-in digital camera, visual radio, and MP3 player. But it costs about 30,000 baht!!! I stopped and thought that it is really cool and I would really be happy if I own one. I can play game or watch TV while waiting for my dentist in the hospital. I can listen to the radio while I am traveling by bus. I can even take the photographs promptly when I find something interesting by accident.

But the point is that, do you really want to have this mobile phone if it costs 30,000 baht? 30,000 baht seems to be just a small amount for you. But for someone, it can support his/her whole family for a month. A mobile phone is basically used for calling, receiving a call or sending and replying an SMS. The main purpose of having a mobile phone is just for communication; not for playing games or listening to music. I'm quite sure that after a month you will be bored on these lots of function and use the mobile phone just for calling. If you want to listen to music, you just buy the MP3 player. You don't have to cost a lot of money to buy the mobile phone which has the MP3 player function. This kind of mobile phone is like a duck. The duck can fly like a bird or either swim in the water like a fish. But it can't perform either efficiently. So a duck is always a duck. It can neither be a bird nor a fish. The same as the mobile phone. It can never be a good camera neither a good music player.

So consider and examine every aspect when you want to buy some new technology for your convenience. You should be a good and practical consumer. Think wisely. Don't indulge and fall captive to the technology.

## Kor Chang : A new place to try

by Por and Pla

Once upon a time in the land called KMUTT, there was a monster called KFC. This monster was pure of evil. He forced everyone in his land to eat a disgusting food for times.

One day, there was a guy from CPE department. He was very smart and extremely good looking. He wanted to escape from this monster. So the guy sneaked out on the back gate of KMUTT, then he made his way on the right. Finally he stopped his journey at the place called "Kor-Chang" next to the Erawan dormitory. His eyes opened wide to see a new eatery. He didn't waste anymore time as he was very hungry. The guy saw the menu and he was shocked. Every dish he saw was duck! Duck noodles, duck meat, duck khao lao. The guy ordered for one. He tried it out and couldn't believe his own tongue.

When he finished his meal he asked the manager of Kor-Chang what time is the place available. The manager said that Kor-Chang will be available at 7.00am - 3.30pm. He was thinking "This place is a haven! Maybe I should sneak out to eat here everyday!" After that, the guy lived happily ever after.



## CPE Night Update



A few more days from now then we will meet for the CPE Night at the Maenam Grand Room of Maenam Riverside Hotel on February 4, 2006 at 6.00 P.M. The theme of the CPE Night is still the same, RGB (Red, green, and blue).

For more information, search at [www.cpe16.net/cpenight](http://www.cpe16.net/cpenight). Let's party after the exam pressures!



## Ireland in my eyes

by Ajam Tiranee

To experience Ireland was something I always wanted to do. A lot of time, I imagined myself listening to a peaceful Celtic music while walking along the endless green field that dropped down to a dramatic seascape with the castle on the top of the cliff. To actually take the trip though, was never a reality until I met Trish, my first Irish friend.

Trish is from a small town in Ireland, a town where everybody knows everybody's business. Her family still lives in the same area, the same house as they always do for generations. All the stories she told about her childhood and her hometown fascinated me. One day out of the blue, we started to talk about visiting Ireland, and bit by bit the trip was planned.

Early morning of August the 4th 2001, I landed at the Shannon airport in Ireland. After a long flight I was tired and wasn't looking forward to driving. Nevertheless, I got in the car with a stick shift and drove on the other side of the road, in a foreign country, to a town I've never heard of, to meet my friend Trish.

It was very easy to find a hotel where I was supposed to meet Trish because there was only one ho-

tel in town. In Ireland's 37 County, there are only 4 cities, the rest are towns and villages. Dublin is the biggest with 1.5 millions, which is more than a third of Ireland total population (of 3.5 millions). Dublin is followed by Cork City, Limerick City, and Galway City. By the time we get to the fourth biggest city, there are fewer than 60,000 people.

I arrived at Pat and Pauline's (Trish's parents) around 3 in the afternoon. I was amazed at what I saw. Trish grew up in a house surrounded by farms, animals, and green field. She had cow, sheep and hen as pets. Her parents are charming and friendly. Her dad greeted me at the door. He was in his brown suit and a hat, looked just like an Irish in a movie. Strokestown is small with only 600 people. Everyone knows everyone. To send a letter to any resident, all you need is a person's name. There is no street name and no house number on the address. I guess the mailman has to be local in town because if he moved here from somewhere else, he wouldn't be able to deliver any letter in this system. I sat down in the dining room and had a nice chat with Pat, the dad. He was interested in how Thai people live, how we build our house, and what we eat. I am probably the first Thai he has ever met. He seemed fascinated by my story as I was to his. He is the main construction man in town, and has built almost every house around the area. I walked around admiring the house and the scenery around it. The house was neatly arranged with simple decoration. The inside was renovated not too long ago, but the actual building was 300 years old. People and places are filled with Irish traditions.

I didn't have that much time to relax because within an hour we were to leave the house again for a football game, Gaelic football. Trish's brother happened to get a hand on a few rare football tickets for the quarter final round between their home team, Roscommon, and the Galway team. I was excited to get to see the match. I had never seen Gaelic football before. All I knew was that it was a hybrid between soccer and rugby, a fast and very physical game. The match was played in Castlebar, Co. Mayo, which was about an hour away. However, with all the traffic the game generated, it took us three hours to get to town and we had to park a couple of miles outside of town and walked to the stadium. We missed the first half of the match. I didn't realize until I was in the stadium how serious the Irish take their sport. The place was packed with about 30,000 people (probably 10 times more than the town population) cheering for their home team. All the players are dedicated to winning and bringing the trophy back to their county. These players had to practice 3-4 times a week during the season. Many of them had to drive for hours to the practices as many live in Dublin. To play for the county team, the person had to be born and grew up in that county. The most amazing thing of all was that, this was NOT a professional sport. Nobody gets paid to do it. It was a pure sense of pride and love for the game and their county. I was in with the game and the people. I even wore the Roscommon headband and did the wave with the crowd. It was a fun experience, but unfortunately Roscommon lost to Galway. We had a quiet ride back home.



## An Exceptional Student's Secret of Excellence Revealed

by Thanin

Hi folks! In this edition we have an interview from a pretty and intelligent girl, P'Phond, (Phond Punchongham) who graduated last year with the Medal of First Class Honor from our university with a GPA of 3.96. She's now taking up her Master's Degree for free here at CPE, KMUTT being one of her incentives for her academic excellence. Her motto in life is: "The great success in life is self-control" and despite her hectic schedules she always spares time playing games, reading books and surfing the Internet. Let's see what she tells us on how she got such an excellent performance.

**T: Have you read our first edition? What do you think about it?**

**P:** Of course. I think CyberAnt is great for giving information to CPE students and for showing their opinions. Moreover, our English skills are practiced.

**T: Any column that you like?**

**P:** SitDown! SpeakUp! I enjoy reading expression of others' opinions on interesting topics.

**T: After 4 years of undergrad experience, what is your favorite food at KFC (KMUTT Food Center)?**

**P:** Rice with spicy clam but it's so rare. We can have it only few days in a week.

**T: Yummy isn't it? Well, why did you**

**choose to study in KMUTT at first?**

**P:** The first reason is that KMUTT is a well-known university. Besides, it has Computer Engineering which is my favorite field since I was young and also I got the quota for it.

**T: And how do you feel about being with the CPE?**

**P:** CPE people are friendly and have unity. There are many activities that are held thru CPE students' as well as faculty and staff's cooperation such as, "Meeting" to welcome the freshmen, "Byenior" which is a farewell party for the seniors, and the CPE Sports Day (which we held last week) to promote unity among the students, faculty and staff etc.

**T: So what are you doing now after graduation?**

**P:** I'm presently enrolled at the graduate program of the CPE here at KMUTT.

**T: Okay, why did you choose to continue studying? Many of your friends are working at various companies now.**

**P:** Umm... there are many reasons. Firstly, I have a great opportunity to be awarded by Computer Engineering Department a scholarship offered to its excellent students.

**T: Oh wow! Did you accept it right away?**

**P:** Yup, I was encouraged by Aj. Tiranee and my family to accept it. I think not many people obtain this privilege. It's like a reward that I deserve after all my hardwork. Moreover, I want to be my own boss for the moment and I am also interested in academic work.

**T: How great is that! Many people told me that they wonder how you got such a very high grade in your undergrad. Please share about it with us.**

**P:** Sure! It's simple. All I did was to pay attention to every class and intend to do all of my homework by myself. Thus, I do not spend much time to prepare for examination.

**T: Aha the exam! You know that usually the students will group themselves for reading and tutoring. Are you the one who do tutoring every time?**

**P:** Yes, most of the time. But my friends know that they should prepare themselves first and then ask me only the point that they don't understand. It is impossible to learn all of the materials just before the day of the exam. That's cramming! And cramming or studying right before the exam isn't effective because you try to push everything in your head all together. The exam is to evaluate how well you understand the problem not what you remember from the book! We don't come to the university to be bookish but to learn the skills that we need in our future job.

**T: Fantastic! If there is something you don't understand, how can you figure it out?**

**P:** I will try to find the solution by myself from reading book or searching on the Internet. If these steps are not successful, I will ask some people who are expert on the topic. I would like to mention that "any problem that you solve by yourself, you will remember it for a long time" (not only for the sake of the exam).

**T: I have to try that by myself, LOL. What's your favorite subject? What about the most difficult to you?**

**P:** My favorite subject is Computer Architecture because this subject is very important for computer engi-

neers. We need to understand everything about it. Besides, the lecturer has taught it well.

Electronics is the hardest subject for me. I am not an expert in it. However, I attempted to do more exercises to understand it clearly.

**T: Now let's check out on some students' styles. Have you ever copied homework?**

**P:** Yes, I have, but I never copied without understanding it. I must try to understand it before I copy it.

**T: So most of the time your classmates copy from you, right?**

**P:** Um... not like that. I will explain to them about the material more than let them copy it, so they can understand the problem. I don't want them to be just copycats forever.

**T: Next question. Have you ever slept in the class?**

**P:** I did only one time. It resulted from my illness and for taking some medicine.

**T: I see. How about skipping the class then?**

**P:** I will skip the class just only when I'm busy. I prefer to study in the class so I would have more time with other activities like reading leisure books, watching movies or hanging out with friends. Students who skip the class often miss such great opportunities because they have to make up reading longer and I believe that there are a few people who can learn by themselves.

**T: What have made you pay attention to the class?**

**P:** If the material in the subject is quite interesting and is explained very well.

**T: What about in boring subjects?**

**P:** I must bear it because if I didn't pay



When we got home, I was surprised to see that both Pat and Pauline were still up. It's almost 11 pm. Pauline told me that no one goes to bed early on a weekend in Ireland. Going to a pub to mingle is a big part of the Irish culture. People play music and dance and drink until late at night. If tea was the most popular drink for the Irish, I was sure that beer came in second. A small town of 600 people like Strokestown had 19 pubs! Trish and I had a light dinner just before bed.

The following day is a bank holiday for the Irish. I asked Trish what was a bank holiday. She said the government picked 6 days of a year to be days off for the people and they all were called bank holiday. They don't have the Independence Day, the Labor Day or any special holiday, just bank holidays. I guess that was good in a way. I spent a long time talking and exchanging stories with Pat and Pauline over breakfast and then went over to visit uncle Henry. Henry is Pat's older brother who lives by himself 7 miles away from town. He lives in an old house, cooks on an open fire, and owns a donkey. He cycles 14 miles everyday to town to get a newspaper and some groceries. He lives the simplest life. Every morning he wakes up, builds his fire and cooks bacon and cabbage. I found that truly fascinating for he is living the life of the ancient people in the 21st century. I was delighted to have a chance to talk with him, although I couldn't understand most of what he was saying. He talked fast with thick accent. For a while there I wasn't sure if he spoke English. His house was small with one big room and the first thing I saw when I walked in was the open fireplace where he cooks. The house was so old that he didn't remember how old it was, almost half a century old was his guess. It used to have a thatch roof,

but Pat replaced the roof a couple of years ago. We talked for a while and Henry showed me how to build a fire. I knew I acted like a tourist when I asked if I could take his picture in front of the house. I really couldn't help it. This was traditional as traditional could be.

Our next stop was the tallest mountain in Roscommon, right in Strokestown. Pat said that on a clear day we would be able to see 5 counties from the top of that mountain (the mountain didn't have a name). Unfortunately, it wasn't a clear day, actually it was worst than that, it was a foggy and rainy day. Trish and Pat took me up to the top of the mountain where the big cross was put there 50 years ago. Way back then there wasn't any road, to build the cross, people had to transport sand and cement on the back of donkeys. A line of donkeys and town people hiking up to the top of the mountain in the rain was the picture I had in my mind when Pat told the story. Every little thing in Ireland has a story behind it.

From the mountain, we headed into town to visit the Hales' house, the only thing for tourist in town. Up until about 15-20 years ago, the house was occupied by Major and Lady Hales. They were the town governors sent from the British Empire. Ireland became republic since 1942, but the Hales family stayed on in Strokestown until the 80's. They pretty much owned the town. They used to make town people walk on the other side of the street out of their way. Strokestown was their little kingdom and they were the king and the queen. No one was permitted to walk on their properties (which was pretty much everywhere). When Trish was young, she and her friends dared each other to bike through the giant iron-gate toward the house. They would bike in the estate closed enough to the house and then retreated. One day a friend dared Trish to bike to the actual front door and touched a doorstep. She did, the little Trish touched the stepping stone at the front door and looked up the window, and there she was, Madam Hales looking down. The dogs were let out to chase Trish, and in panic she fell off the bike before she got herself together and biked away back into town. The house even had a different entrance for the gentry (themselves) and the town people. They treated everyone like dirt and soon enough people started to reject them and finally they had to move back to England. I found it hard to believe that a story sounded so much like a period movie has happened in my generation, only 15-20 years ago. The house is a museum now. Pat and Trish took me around the estate. Pat helped the town restoring parts of the house so we all didn't have to buy tickets and could pretty much walk anywhere we pleased. I had my grand private tour.

It's time to say goodbye to the Compton family. As much as I enjoyed Strokestown, I was going to be in Ireland only for 9 days, and there were a lot more for me to see. I left the house headed down south toward Cork City. I would be spending another week driving along the coast. The second part of my trip was as much fun as the first.

All in all, it has been a very tiring but enjoyable trip. I have put 1,133 miles on the car. I have experienced the sun and the rain. I have seen the sheep and the cows on the streets. I have walked on the beautiful landscapes and the majestic castles....and that was Ireland in my eyes.

much attention to the class, I have to do more on self-study and readings. It's just a matter of responsibility and attitude. You are the one who control the situation. Don't let a boring subject make you down. Studying is an important job for the student and attitudes such as tolerance and patience are necessary for him to be successful.

**T: To remain in top rank must be tough. Do you ever have a bad time? How did you get it through?**

P: Sure, I ever. When I am feeling terrible, I will consult with my best friends or family. They will give good support and advice. Then I will try to solve my problems sensibly.

**T: Who motivated you to go through these obstacles? Who was pushing you?**

P: My family is my important factor. They always give me moral support, so I can fight all obstacles.

**T: Well I think you are an attractive girl then you must have many friends, right? How do you balance your friendship and study?**

P: Umm... studying is an important duty for students, so I will give priority studying first. When I'm free from studying, I will take the rest of my time to do other activities with my friends and family. If they are in some trouble that I can help them, I will help them with my best. You know, if you can strike a balance between two things, you will have good times in your undergraduate period.

**T: There are a couple more questions. Do you think English is important? And why?**

P: Absolutely. English is a world-wide language. You can communicate with foreigners with the common language. Currently, every business needs to contact with foreign countries. If you want to get more chance, you must have good Eng-

lish skills.

**T: If you would like to be somebody else, who would that person be?**

P: I would like to be Hermiony Granger; because she is skillful and smart. She is the best student and is very diligent. She acquired her abilities from her experience. Moreover, she is so cute and a darling.

**T: Hang on. You are a fanatic of Harry Potter! P: Yes I am.**

**T: Not just the textbook. Umm what are you planning for your future?**

P: I plan to finish a Doctoral degree but I may also work in a company for a few years to get more experience so I'll be more effective when I get back to the academic field which is my interest.

**T: Last thing. Do you have anything you want to tell to undergrads?**

P: Do not study only. You should participate in any other activities which you can no longer enjoy when you graduate. Participating in various activities will give you more experience. Let's have a good time and worthwhile living while in the undergrad. Again, the easy technique in studying is to pay attention to the material and lecturer during the class. Do not learn the whole subject in one day, it doesn't work well. Enjoy your undergrad life like I did.

**T: Thank you very much for sharing a good experience to undergrad people. I'm sure they will have more valuable memories here.**

Here we go. How marvelous she is! The excellent student does not have knowledge only. Joining extra-curricular activities is also important to make your university life worthwhile. Please remember you are the one who control the situation. Enjoy!



<p>What is the most idiot thing you've ever done?</p> <p>Shut down the computer by unplugging it. 18.31%</p> <p>Bring the heavy notebook computer to the university everyday but you don't really use it. 9.86%</p> <p>Bring the wrong book into the examination room for open book exam. 33.8%</p> <p>Have the O2 mobile phone but don't know how to use it efficiently. 14.08%</p> <p>Your girlfriend?? When you haven't called her for a couple of days. 7.04%</p> <p>Lectured to video in LMS with blurred pictures and letters. 16.9%</p> <p>Talking on the phone and wondering "Where is my mobile!!?"</p> <p>Taking the book to the exam room but cannot find it.</p> <p>If you are in CPE and turning off the computer by unplugging you may hang yourself under the parsley tree.</p>	<p>In the future, the mobile phone will be able to ...</p> <p>Warn and show the telephone number of a nearby cute girl. 27.59%</p> <p>Explode when someone tries to steal it. 30.31%</p> <p>Pretend to have noise and unclear sound. 19.00%</p> <p>Calls the car to automatically drive for you like in James Bond movies. 22.41%</p> <p>Have button that turn the mobile to be a light saber. (StarWars)</p> <p>Telephone. Making a call is its duty.</p> <p>Be a pocket weapon!</p> <p>Mustache Shaving Machine and Vibrator.</p> <p>Be a canteen!</p> <p>Explode! That's it!</p>	<p>What do you wish from our department for this new year?</p> <p>11th floor of CPE department will come out of a dream. 16.07%</p> <p>Oh my God, Gorge! The tuition fee must be cheaper. 41.07%</p> <p>Air conditioners should be on all the time with TV and home theater at the department. 16.07%</p> <p>Change the computers in the computer network room. 8.93%</p> <p>Coffee and snacks every break time. 7.14%</p> <p>Foot massage and aromatherapy service. 10.71%</p> <p>Just prettier girls will do just fine!</p> <p>Can it be 100 baht per subject?</p> <p>Take my word, don't expect much.</p> <p>Can we pay 2 terms? Get free 1 term!</p>	<p>What is the best way to prevent the juvenile getting into the inappropriate website?</p> <p>Ghost program, the ghost will appear and scream every 5 minutes when the juvenile gets into the inappropriate website. 10.71%</p> <p>Use the monks' preaching program. 7.14%</p> <p>Use the electronic shock mouse. It will shock the juvenile user when the inappropriate website is opened. 23.21%</p> <p>Set up a campaign to promote sex education. 35.71%</p> <p>Set up a home sweet home campaign. 23.21%</p> <p>The ghost picture over the porn one! Oh man!!</p> <p>Just ban those websites. Enforce some rigid rules. The problem should be solved by its causes and effects.</p> <p>Don't hurt yourself so often. It's not good.</p>	<p>If you met a fairy, what wish would you have made?</p> <p>You were as rich as Thaksin Shinawatra. 32.69%</p> <p>You were as handsome as Tik-Jadsadaporn or as beautiful as Um-Patcharapa. 3.85%</p> <p>You were as strong as Paweena Thongsuk. 5.77%</p> <p>You were as smart as Einstein. 25%</p> <p>You wanted the fairy to be your wife. 32.69%</p> <p>May I not be single!!?</p> <p>A can of cola!</p> <p>Let there be peace!</p> <p>My soul mate where are you??</p> <p>I'll takeover the earth!</p> <p>Get rich! Then the other things will follow.</p> <p>Live happily!</p> <p>I wish ... you!</p> <p>May I be intelligent as Mr. Thaksi...</p> <p>I wish for myself and the one I love having good health!</p>	<p>Which movie is the most unrealistic?</p> <p>StarWars 16.98%</p> <p>HarryPotter 16.98%</p> <p>The Matrix 16.98%</p> <p>War of the Worlds 13.21%</p> <p>KingKong 9.43%</p> <p>Tom Yum Kung 26.42%</p> <p>Where is my Elephant!!</p> <p>All of them are impossible.</p> <p>Lord Of The Rings :) India porno.</p> <p>Fhan-Chun</p> <p>All of scary movies.</p> <p>They are all nonsense! The space can't have any sound travelling!</p> <p>I don't believe imagination will lie.</p> <p>Eating longans helps the nation.</p>	<p>What is in your mind when you finish your examination?</p> <p>It's OK. 20.69%</p> <p>Thinking of the teacher. 12.07%</p> <p>Although I read so hard, still I do not get good grades. 44.83%</p> <p>Oh! My back hurts. It seems to be the base of my friends again. 10.34%</p> <p>Where can I buy the withdrawal paper? 5.17%</p> <p>I want to study in another faculty. 6.9%</p> <p>I'm not the only one who can't make it!</p> <p>Yeah, this is life!</p> <p>What have I done! Man!</p> <p>Oh no! I just figured out how to solve that problem just now!</p> <p>Better sleep.</p> <p>I shouldn't have changed that answer! It was already right!</p>
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## Whats\_Up@CPE

by Suthep Madarasmii, Ph.D., Department Chair.

The editor-in-chief had asked me to write an article on the plans and goals of our department. I questioned, "Cyber Ant is supposed to be a fun student's forum magazine, so who would want to read such a boring article?" I immediately realized the need to borrow Hollywood's techniques in making movies on historical events such as The Titanic or Pearl Harbor. The trick is to spice it up with a juicy love story so people will pay to watch. So, how can I write about the department to make it interesting and palatable to Cyber Ant readers?

Sopha is a 3rd-year international program student at CPE. How should I describe Sopha? Let's say from a distance people often mistake her for Tata Young. Her face is more like McIntosh; not the computer McIntosh, obviously, but Maam McIntosh. Anek, a tall 4th-year student in the regular program, has tried for over 2 years now to be Sopha's phuan sanit (close friend), thinking this would be the best way to capture her heart some day. But it has been difficult, since Sopha has many close friends and together they speak English so well and appear so hi-so (high society), making him somewhat insecure. Anyhow, he's now involved in the new Exxon-Mobil sponsored English training program held by CPE for seniors. He plans to get a good job in an international company and should some day be able to win a place in Sopha's heart.

Sopha is now proud to be in the international program. She used to question how it was different from the regular program, except for the instruction in English. Now, with the many international instructors, ESL programs, language activities, new computer labs, and her seniors having graduated to good jobs, she is quite pleased. Also, Ms. Eunice, the new international program coordinator, has helped initiate many interesting programs including tutoring, so there's visibly more support for her. She can sense her English and engineering skills improve with time as she heads towards becoming a "global engineer". She did consider transferring to the University of Missouri this year, but it was too expensive for her parents. She could still have convinced her parents, but deep in her heart, she too didn't want to leave her friends behind. Next year, though, she plans to take CPE's free TOEFL preparation course to prepare her for entrance into a master's degree program in the States. With the quality education she is getting here, she is confident she can perform well anywhere. She is also considering going to Germany for one semester as exchange student next year. The program is quite affordable, having to only pay for living costs there. She does wonder how she will live without her dear friends, especially Phi Anek who has always been around whenever she needed someone to talk to or even yell at. She is also afraid that once she is out of sight, Phi Arunee, who shares a senior project with Anek, might get a chance to spend even more time with Anek. Sopha has convinced herself that Arunee is Anek's kik (a term probably derived from "sidekick", referring to potential special friend). Phi Arunee is actually very pleasant, but Sopha just hates that woman for some

odd reason that even she finds unreasonable.

Rit is a new student from a small town up North. He felt very insecure and homesick during his first semester here. However, the activities for 1st year students had quickly made him very close to his friends. The 3rd year students who once appeared to despise him and had even rejected his entire class, now all seem so kind, especially Phi Sopha. Sopha is his peer mentor as they share the same last digits of student ID. Every time Phi Sopha is around he finds it difficult to even breathe as her good looks make it hard for him to control his trembling nerves. He jokingly imagines himself as a hero in a real-life drama titled Raak Khaam Run (Love across the Age Barrier). Rit found CPE100 last semester to be very easy. He thinks the acharn taught the course very very very well; however, he finds that the acharn had one serious flaw: he liked to praise himself too much. Rit did rather poorly in Calculus and Physics, though, because it was so different from what he had learned in high school. Anyhow, the many tutoring programs the department held really helped him make it through. He can sense that the acharns at CPE do truly care for his well-being and want to see him succeed, because his success also means the success of the department. To Rit, college is not just a place to learn and earn a bachelor's degree for work, but a place to have memorable experiences and build good friendship that will last a life time. His mother had once told him, "Rit, your goals in life will never end -- school, college, job, graduate school, marriage, children, better job, etc. -- new goals keep coming. If you only focus on reaching your goals, you will merely be traveling towards your final destination which is the end of life. So, try to enjoy each journey towards each destination in life". Rit participates in the many activities among friends to get the most out of the 4 youthful years he will spend as part of his journey through college life.

With the CPE Party Night coming up in February, Rit is given the daunting task to prepare a show on behalf of freshmen students. He asks Sopha for help. Sopha calls on Anek, knowing he will always be willing to assist, even though he is under lots of pressure to complete his senior project. Together they organize a group of students for a dance, but cannot find a place to practice. "I feel so crowded in this department sometimes! When are we going to get more space here?" asked Rit. Anek didn't know. Sopha had the inside story so told that the construction will begin this summer and CPE should have 1.5 floors more by the next school year. She's not so sure how much of it she will get to use by the time she graduates. Rit is assured that he will definitely get to use the new space with its modern labs, learning space, and student activity rooms. After the practice, Anek went to have coffee and cake with Sopha at Bow's Café. It was just the two of them this time. Anek asked Sopha, "Let's go to the Loi Krathong (lantern float) festival next Wednesday". "Who all are going?" she asked. "Just the 2 of us," Anek responded, his voice trembling as his chocolate cake starts to lose its sweet taste. After a brief pause that seemed a million heartbeats to Anek, Sopha finally replied, "Yes".